



Teacher's Guide for Activities 4 and 5

Activity 4 Our Special Day

In this activity, students use their creativity and language arts skills to invent a greeting card occasion to share with their family.

Tell students that America is known for its unique and sometimes funny special days, from Drinking Straw Day in January to Monkey Day in December. Then ask students to guess how many greeting cards are mailed each year in the U.S. (Answer: over six billion cards!)

Pass out the activity sheet. Tell students that they will be inventing a special day for their family by creating their own unique greeting card and mailing it to their parents. Have students use the questions on the sheet to come up with their day, then pass out blank cards and have students design their greeting cards. Pass out envelopes and use the space on the activity sheet to teach students the correct way to address an envelope, then have students stamp their envelopes and mail them home to their parents, being sure they don't tell their parents in advance so that when their parents see their name and address on a handwritten envelope from their child, it will provide a surprise that rewards both parent and child.

As an extension, have the class create a special day for your school that will promote school spirit, and design a line of greeting cards to support that promotion.



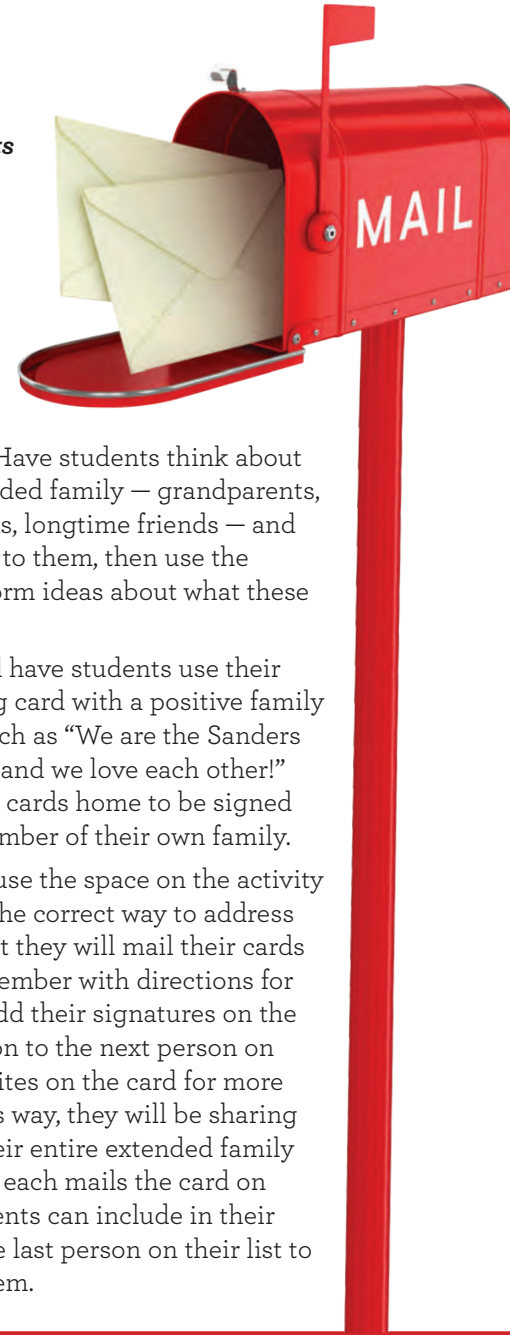
Activity 5 Say It Forward

In this activity, students learn how greeting cards connect two or more people, and how a gift of words builds relationship bonds.

Tell students that today they are going to create a card that connects an entire extended family! Have students think about the people in their extended family – grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, longtime friends – and what these people mean to them, then use the activity sheet to brainstorm ideas about what these family members share.

Pass out blank cards and have students use their ideas to create a greeting card with a positive family message on the front, such as “We are the Sanders family. We are awesome and we love each other!” Have students take their cards home to be signed on the back by every member of their own family.

Pass out envelopes and use the space on the activity sheet to teach students the correct way to address an envelope. Explain that they will mail their cards to an extended family member with directions for that person's family to add their signatures on the back and send the card on to the next person on a list that the student writes on the card for more family signatures. In this way, they will be sharing the gift of words with their entire extended family by “saying it forward” as each mails the card on to the next person. Students can include in their instructions a note to the last person on their list to send the card back to them.



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